

2013 The Year in Review

Wednesday, January 5, 2014

In general, 2013 was a good year. Aside from Jackie's dad and grandmother passing on, most everyone is healthy and happy – but we aren't getting any younger obviously. Despite my best efforts, Jackie makes sure that we eat really healthily and that we're getting enough exercise. Jackie and I even biked up the [Gurten](#) (the local peak some 300m above Bern) and around the [Worblental](#) (a valley near Bern) – albeit on separate days – playing [Ingress](#).

For those who are unfamiliar with it, Ingress is a real-time, massive, multi-player, two team, augmented reality game. Basically, you physically go to designated geographic locations called portals with your Android phone or device and attack or defend (virtually) with the intent of taking over the world. I use it as a reason to exercise, and have lost about 8 kilos. I highly recommend it for people who want to learn more about their city and meet up with like minded geeks. Of course this means I needed to buy a new phone, and will need a new bike next year, but hey, it was the *summer of Ingress*.

The big news, of course, is that I no longer work for Autodesk. I was kind of anticipating it would happen, as I mentioned last year. So I've decided to forge ahead and start a company with Jackie's help. It's called [9code GmbH](#) and the business plan is to do software development in four areas: the Internet of Things, Android app development, GIS and 3D printing. We've done this startup thing before – back in the 80's and 90's – so the basic process is already well known to us, and we're looking forward to it. The big differences are that it's in Switzerland (German) and now there's the internetz. We're just starting out, so if you know of any likely customers...

Samantha has graduated (Waterloo, MArch), and just got her Swiss work visa for a job in Lausanne with [AL30](#) where she worked as an undergraduate. She was waiting a long time on tenterhooks as the bureaucracy ground through the paperwork, but I think everything is a “go” now and she should be moving to Switzerland shortly.

Alex is now in 2nd year at ETH in mechanical engineering and lives in Zürich to avoid the commute back and forth to Bern.

Since Autodesk took their laptop back, I dug up the old one, a Lenovo W500, and slapped Ubuntu on it. It actually goes pretty good with the SSD I bought, but now my favourite saying is “Welcome to Linux. This is gonna hurt.”.

I took a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on [data analysis](#) – statistics of large data. Of the 102,000 students, I was one of the 5000 or so that finished the course. I got about 80%, but I can't say whether that's good or not. Judging from the forum dialogues and the assignments that I marked it wasn't a really strong field. For me, it was only about learning the state of the art of data analysis from a daily

practitioner's point of view, and I believe I got that. Next up are Nanosensors and Gamification (yes, those are two separate courses) next year.

Looking back on [2013's resolutions](#) I have to say I pretty much nailed it. Here are my resolutions for 2014:

- I plan on doing more artwork since up until now I've purchased more art supplies than I have actually produced in artwork – ya know what I'm sayin'.
- I want to take a more active role in the security area – Snowden and NSA kind of stuff – more than just being an EFF supporter.
- I want to pass my B2 level German exam this year.
- Physically, I'll try to lose another 8 kilos and take up something that promotes flexibility, balance and grace, so I'm not such a klutz.
- I'm going to try to be more personable and empathetic, *i.e.* less isolationist.

All the best in 2014,

Derrick